

TIPTON TIMES

**315
JUNE
& JULY
2023**

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reflections on a
Coronation celebration

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We welcome letters and contributions but reserve the right to edit and amend such offerings. Views expressed within each article are the author's own.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the June/July edition of Tipton Times. The last few weeks have been extremely eventful to say the least, so there is much in the following pages which reflects on recent events and, especially, the great community spirit - which could so easily be taken for granted.

The coronation celebrations are described in Ann Knight's article on the following pages. Again, many thanks are due to her and all those who planned and organised the celebration events.

You won't be surprised that the recent flooding features heavily in this issue: there are photographs on the back pages and descriptions in several articles of the impact on our community. Ken Mylne has also provided an explanation of why and how the storm developed - see page 25 for this.

You will notice that contributions from local councillors are very limited in this issue - you'll see a letter from Geoff Pratt on page 22 following his decision to stand down as a district councillor. Lisette Johnston has also stepped down as the Ottery Town Councillor for the Tipton Ward. Many thanks to both of them for all they've done to represent us and for their contributions to Tipton Times. Matthew Williamson has just been co-opted to replace Lisette on the Town Council: congratulations to him and we look forward to his contribution in future editions.

In every issue we seem to be acknowledging the passing of members of our community. Our condolences and sympathy go to the families and friends of George Bavidge, Derek Wood, Joan Maynard and Steve Agar.

The Editors

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Coronation of King Charles III

How lucky were we? All we needed for success was good weather and lots of people and we had both. A fine, sunny, late spring evening on the Playing Field is a treat in itself and this one was warm enough to be without coats for a good part of it. Not so warm for some though, particularly Andy Wiltshire rounding up stray ducks in the river without a wet suit.

We started on a happy note with free tea and cake from the Pavilion. Barbara Pugh conceived the idea and soon organised a team of bakers to make the cakes and helpers to serve them. As she said 'Over two hundred cakes - gone in sixty minutes!' Well done Barbara.

Thanks to your generosity, and largely due to the sales skills of Mark Rigden, we sold tickets for well over 900

ducks for the race which meant that after giving money prizes and paying expenses there was a good amount for Scout funds. This will help their effort to get water and mains electricity to their Harpford Lane Headquarters (watch this space). 1000 ducks took to the water and only about 14 didn't come swimming back. Many thanks to the Sidmouth Lions for lending them and for waiving their 'lost duck' charge.

The younger children were well catered for by the PTFA led by Nikki Peckham. She and her helpers had a variety of activities on offer, ranging from crown making to word searches and they were kept busy until long after some of the young ones should have been in bed.



The popularity of the BBQ was evidenced by the long queue. Well done those Scout leaders who leapt out of the river, where they had been collecting ducks, donned their uniforms and rushed to help the almost overwhelmed Alison and her team, over a hot stove. No sooner had they done this when it was time for them to organise the games. How lovely to see so many children on the field and to know that old fashioned races like 'egg and spoon' and 'three legged' have not lost their appeal. Similar games were played at the village celebration to celebrate the Coronation of Edward VII in 1902. Welly Wanging was popular with the not so young too as was the obligatory 'tug-of-war' organised by Luke Knight.

The evening concluded with lighting the beacon. This was done for us by Anthony Anning who managed to coax the logs, which had received their share of the previous day's rain, into a glorious blaze seen from many parts of the village as well as the Playing Field.

A pleasant background to the activities was provided by our local group 'Wonky Buzzard'. Just right to provide the relaxed atmosphere as was the 'canned ' music which started us off, courtesy of Roger Hunt, who also proved the essential PA. So many people to thank - I am bound to have forgotten someone but your contributions are all really appreciated. What a great village - always a team to step up when required.

I remember being taken as a child to watch the Queen's Coronation on a neighbour's black and white television and would like to hope that when some of the children on the Playing Field are 80+ they look back with fond memories of celebrating Charles III's Coronation in Tipton St John.

Ann Knight





Nature Notes

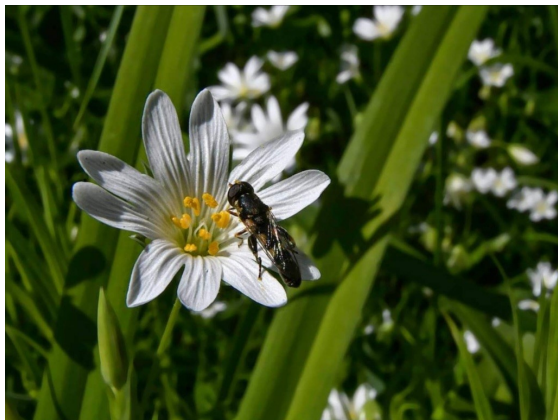
It's another glorious late spring morning as I sit down to write, with the promise of more sunshine to come in the next few days ... and summer is just a week and a half away! Although nothing is ever guaranteed weather-wise, we certainly weren't expecting the biblical storm of the 9th May. That was something that we don't want to see again anytime soon. I'm not going to say any more about it here. I'm sure everyone has their own memories of that day. Just to say that thoughts were, and still are, with those that were badly affected.

The hedgerows have given us their usual beautiful display of red campion, stitchwort and bluebells, along with vetches,

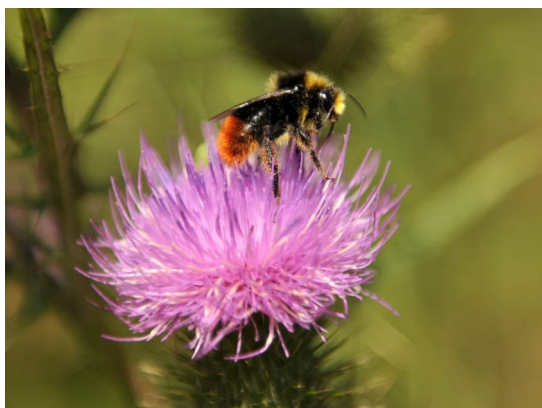
and one of my favourite sights, common fumitory.

Common fumitory is a common, scrambling plant that grows in arable fields and on waste ground in the wider countryside, and favours well-drained, disturbed and bare soils. It can also be found in gardens, where some gardeners view it as a weed. It has crimson-tipped, pink flowers that appear from April to October. On open grasslands, ox-eye daisies provide wonderful shows, mixed in with vetches such as the yellow bird's foot trefoil.

Where walls line field boundaries, herb Robert shows as a cloud of small pink flowers - don't put one in your button hole as this brings on rain (enough said about that!) - and wall pennywort clings to the walls with round fleshy leaves and an unusual single flower spike.



Hoverfly on stitchwort



Cuckoo bumble bee on teasel

The hawthorn blossom starts to fade, but the elder blooms light up the roadsides with their big disks of creamy pungent flowers, and in many hedgerows traveller's joy, which is a relative of the garden clematis, grows prolifically. Where it takes hold it can seemingly smother the plants below. It is also called old man's beard from its woolly seed head that appears later in the year. Greater bindweed is another plant which climbs though the hedge. Its big white trumpet flowers open during the day, then twist closed as night falls. The occasional teasel can also find a foothold, its small pink flowers appearing in whorls amidst its spiky flower heads.



Ants are very active, and where there's ants there is the next progression in the food chain, the green woodpecker. The green woodpecker is the largest species of woodpecker in the UK, growing to around 32cm. It has beautiful green plumage on its back and wings, and a bright yellow rump. The head features a bright red crown, and there are black patches around the eyes - if you have never seen one, you have more than likely heard one as its call is not unlike the sound of manic laughter! They normally feed on earthworms, but when the ground is hard and dry in August they have a hard time finding them. Fortunately, the hot weather makes the flying ants come to the surface of their nests, and the woodpeckers simply switch diet for a few weeks. The green woodpecker has an incredibly long tongue, which is around four times longer than its beak. This allows it to lick up insects hidden behind the bark of trees and also to delve deep into ant's nests.

Fox cubs will be taking their first adventurous steps outside their dens this month. Their mothers will be trying to teach them the serious survival skills of finding food, but the cubs are usually much more interested in exploring and playing games with every new thing they come across! If you listen carefully you will probably hear the vixens' cries of frustration!

That's it.....'til next time!

Geoff Pinn

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Tipton St John Playing Field

We have witnessed extraordinary extremes of weather in recent days. To see the playing field now, well-mown and in warm sunshine, it's impossible to imagine the torrential rain and flooding that hit the area during the second week of May. In fact, the playing field escaped the floods because, on this occasion, the river didn't overflow its banks.



One of the reasons why the field is looking good at the moment is the valued contribution of volunteers on the bank holiday Monday following the coronation, weeding and clearing under benches and paths. Many thanks to all who came to help, despite the weather. If anyone feels they missed out on the opportunity to volunteer, there are still things that need to be done, so don't hesitate to let me know if you would like to help out.

We were very pleased that the playing field was able to contribute to the success of the coronation celebrations and are very grateful for everyone's efforts in the preparation, also over the weekend itself. Ann Knight's article on pages 4 and 5 captures the efforts everyone made and the very happy spirit on the day.



Many thanks, too, to all those who've volunteered in the wildlife area and community garden, which have quickly become integral parts of the life of the playing field, alongside the activities of our affiliated sports clubs and the primary school, as well as those who use the field as a place for recreation and walking their dogs. We very much appreciate the efforts of the latter to clean up after their dogs: the huge improvement in this respect has been noted! We would just ask that everyone leaves the field as they find it and takes all their litter away with them.

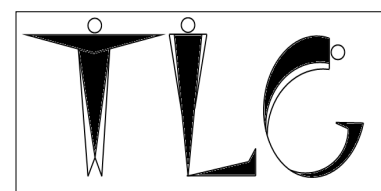
Finally, a reminder that the **Otter Rail and River Run** takes place on **Saturday 8th July**. Volunteers are still needed for marshalling and other tasks. Please let me know if you can help.

David Birch (Chairman) 07929 -822940

After many years of valuable contribution to the work of the Tipton Ladies Group Committee, Ann Moore and Maureen Critchfield stepped down from the Committee at the AGM. They were both thanked for their work and we



hope they will continue to thoroughly enjoy attending as members rather than as part of the committee. Mo Mylne, Stephanie Kinson and Eleanor Kinson were welcomed onto the committee and hope they will manage to contribute as well as their predecessors.



Following the formal AGM business we were treated to the delights of a personal recollection from Elizabeth Cozens of her trip to London to watch the Coronation of Charles III. A Union Jack-endowed periscope, a step to sit or stand on and a cream tea are all part of the essentials. It was clearly an amazing day and one that Elizabeth will treasure for many years. She also had a coincidental meeting, amongst the tens of thousands of people in the crowd, with an older lady from Australia who she had shared a cream tea with after Queen Elizabeth's funeral ... and now has an invite to visit if ever she is in Australia!

Our next meeting is on **Monday 19th June, 7.30pm** in the Community Hall when we look forward to hearing from Lisette Johnston about the motivation and achievements of Eager Beavers, a Tipton community group.

New members are always welcome.

Mo Mylne



Coronation Day - the view from the Mall

I stayed with our daughter Alice in Cambridge and we took the 4.45am train into London on the big day. To our surprise, we shared a carriage with the same lady who we had met on the train to the late Queen's funeral last autumn.

The tube trains were already busy at 6am and when we reached Green Park we rushed towards the Mall, directed by lots of marshals, to the viewing area. To our surprise there were no bag checks but facial recognition cameras were scanning the crowds. The crowd was already five deep all along the Mall with many people sleeping out there for days. We had folding stools to stand on so we selected a tree on the Mall in front of Clarence House and found our spot, knowing we would be there for the next six hours! Luckily things were even more organised than for the funeral and there were coffee and food stalls and loos all within the fenced off viewing area. By 7.30am this area of the Mall was closed to prevent too many people arriving but, by then, the crowd was at least ten deep all along our side of the route.

We could see Buckingham Palace to our far right, TV cameras on a low tower on our right and security and facial recognition cameras on the low tower to our left so we were in a very good viewing position. We unpacked our breakfast picnic and started chatting to the people around us.

One man, sitting on his folding stool leaning against our tree, amazingly had been there since 5pm the night before. I asked where he was staying in London and he said, "At the Ritz". He had booked a suite as a treat for his family months ago at a very good rate. His family were there enjoying high-thread-count sheets and delicious food while he was out in the rain all night! The family with four children near us had been there since 4am and the children were all tumbled together on blankets on the ground just like a basket of kittens.

We shared our picnic, as did others, and we got those behind us up on our stools in turn so they could see more easily and take pictures. Roger was staying in Devon looking after the animals but he had made us a periscope which was shared around and this caused great interest. We managed to get all the children forward to the front before the processions arrived. This was very important to me because someone must have done that for me when, aged 6, I watched the state funeral of Winston Churchill which I have never forgotten.

Then, about 10am, the guardsmen in their bearskins marched to take their places all along the route, facing inwards and in between the police officers who were facing the crowds. We were asked over the tannoy not to wave our flags when the horses came past so that the horses could enjoy their day, too.

The rain was intermittent and had stopped by the time the processions came past. What a spectacle, so many horses, so many bands all playing the same tunes, so many marching feet keeping perfect time! It made me proud of our country and our heritage. The King and Queen and Prince Louis waved in our direction and there was so much cheering.

The service itself was relayed over loudspeakers. Several people left to watch on big screens in the park. However, they were not allowed back in, so most of the people who stayed were able to move forward and get good views of the fabulous golden coronation coach. I had seen the coach in the royal mews before but it was quite different seeing it in action pulled by the beautiful Windsor grey horses.

Afterwards the barriers were opened and we were allowed to walk down the Mall. We saw the helicopters and the Red Arrows fly past but the crowds were so huge we did not manage to see the balcony appearance. We were walking down towards Buckingham Palace when Alice grabbed my arm and said, "Look, I think it is the lady we shared our cream tea with at the funeral."

There were 100,000 tourists in London for the Coronation and tens of thousands lining the route. Unbelievably, we met up with the very same elderly Australian lady who had come on her own to the late Queen's funeral in the autumn! She was so glad to see us because she said she had told all her family about us and the cream tea and she did not think they believed her. Also, she had wanted to say 'thank you'. So we hugged, took selfies and exchanged contact details. We were delighted to hear that, this time, she had had an excellent view in the area reserved for those with disabilities.

By the time we got home I was exhausted but I am so pleased we went, even if it meant missing the village coronation barbecue!

Elizabeth Cozens

George Bavidge 5.7.42 to 16.4.23

George and I came to Tipton in August 1998. I became the manager of Angela Court, while George continued as the auto electrician at The Original Bus Company in London, working there Monday to Friday and coming home for the weekends.

Our life was always busy, but really enjoyable. I became part of Tipton life, joining most of the village groups and becoming a committee member of them too. I was also on the Church PCC. George was happy to be part of this when he came home, and was very handy doing electrical jobs at Angela Court.

In 2007 he had to have surgery to his neck, which resulted in him becoming a paraplegic, confined to a wheelchair. Following more surgery in 2011 his hands also became a problem and he became tetraplegic over time. He also suffered five heart attacks over a few years.

George was a wonderful patient, he never complained and was easy for me to nurse. He always greeted people with optimism and a smile. He loved meeting Colin and Tom at the pub, it was normality for him even if he gave me palpitations watching him racing through the village in his wheelchair to meet them.

In 2019 my daughter moved to Hatherleigh and as she was so supportive of us if I was ill, needing an operation or a break away, we decided to move too. We came to Chulmleigh in September 2019. Fortunately, we love Chulmleigh as much as Tipton. George began to deteriorate in 2022, his life was spent mainly watching films on TV as he found the mouse difficult to use on his loved computer. He was always thinking of ways to get over his disability and remained like that until the end. George died peacefully on Sunday 15th April, with Lizzie, my daughter, my stepson Russell and myself with him.

I would like to thank our friends in Tipton for the cards, messages of condolence and those who attended George's funeral. Thank you so much - you are all very special people.

Mary Bavidge



Letter to the Editors

This Spring my Cornus Contraversa variegata has shown its gorgeous potential and I wanted to share it with everyone.

I bought it with the Bowhayes Trees voucher which was part of my farewell gift when I retired, at the December 2020/January 2021 edition, from the Editorial team.

I have long wanted a 'Wedding Cake Tree', and my first intention was to plant it near the river where passers-by on the footpath could share a view. In the early part of 2021, however, a big chunk of river bank was swept away by the furious river and I decided it would be safer up in our garden.

So, what with one thing and another, planting eventually came about in late 2021, followed by an anxious time last year, protecting against deer and persistent drought and heat in the summer.

Now it's showing at last some beautiful frothy white layers typical of this tree. You can't see it in the pic, but it's lovely against the blue speedwell carpet in the grass. Thank you very much.

Barbara Pugh

Derek Wood 24.6.1935 - 9.3.2023

At the beginning of last month, Derek Wood's funeral at St Thomas's was, like the man, peaceful and thoughtful. Following the sudden, early loss of his wife Pam, Derek had been living quietly for nineteen years - their only child, Penny, visiting regularly.

We heard William Blake's poem *The Echoing Green* and music from Verdi's *The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves* - Nabucco was his favourite opera. In our early Tipton days, a number of us went each year to the Last Night of the Proms picnics. Derek's contribution to the bring and share was always truly the finest and best. We heard that Derek was closely involved in Penny's upbringing as a home father, while Pam continued full time in her profession of Chartered Surveyor. And so Penny gave us a tender and fresh insight into this quiet and affable man when she read the following poem which she had composed:

The Invincible man

*Tick tock you will never stop
You're stoic you see and never complained to me
You never faltered, never changed, in fact you never seemed to age
My dad the invincible man*

*Never one for crowds you preferred space in abounds
There were stories you would release in small moments of peace
Although a painter by trade you could turn your hand to any blade
My dad the invincible man*

*A lover of knowledge and books, you were also a fantastic cook
You could name any flower, any bird, any tree, I regularly wish that knowledge had
been passed to me
Never one for small talk, you preferred a good walk
My dad the invincible man*

*As the years passed you by you never expressed any regret, in fact you were always
happiest with a cigarette!
Although your knees had grown weary and your eyesight became bleary, your spirit
remained and never seemed to change
You once said to me "I've made you independent you see, please don't mourn too long for me"
My dad the invincible man*

*One day our life changed as you went away
No longer the invincible man*



Penny Wood and Barbara Pugh

Joan Maynard

I was notified yesterday about the death of another Venn Ottery resident (who moved to Sidmouth a few years ago).

Joan Maynard died peacefully at home on Tuesday 16th May. She well known locally for her fabulous cakes!



The funeral service will be on Wednesday, 7th June, 11.00am, at Sidmouth parish church (the one in Church Street).

Shân Merritt

Thought for the Times

As we come into the summer, I am reminded that one of the great privileges of being a Church of England minister is to officiate at marriage services - I shall be taking two in the first couple of weeks of June.

Before the groom and bride say anything in the service the minister reads The Preface. It includes these words:

"[Marriage] is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as Christ is united with his bride, the Church."



This sentence says something very wonderful about marriage and something very wonderful about the relationship each one of us can have with Jesus Christ. To uncover the wonder, though, we have to tread very carefully

into the potentially controversial area of equality. Although the Christian Church has not always demonstrated it, the New Testament teaches that men and women are equally valued and loved by God, and are equally worthy of dignity and respect. In today's marriage service the bride is no longer expected to vow obedience to her husband, and nearly always both the bride and groom give and receive a ring, reflecting a more equal partnership.

So, with that in mind, what are we to do with this sentence from the New Testament?

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. [Ephesians 5:22 ESV]

I said that we would need to tread carefully, and this is like treading on a landmine! On its own this sentence can be, has been, and is, used in a very dangerous and harmful way. Taken in isolation, this sentence can leave a woman in submission to domineering control and abuse. Even in our supposedly equal society, the evil of domestic violence continues.

But we are never to read sentences from the Bible on their own. What has often been ignored in the same chapter of Ephesians is the instruction given to husbands:

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... [Eph 5:25 ESV]

How did Christ give himself up? He was crucified. Husbands are to love their wives so much and so sacrificially that they would willingly be crucified

for them. As a husband, I know that I fail to live up to this, but this is the challenging ideal. Going back to the explosive idea of a wife submitting to her husband, it is picturing a marriage in which the husband is so Christ-like that he has this unlimited sacrificial love for her. The wife is asked to submit to love.



Even so, I suspect that many of us would push back against the word 'submit' because we associate it with defeat. In the sport of wrestling, a submission means that the one submitting has lost. In general, we think of submission as something negative. The opposite of submitting is resisting. In a wrestling match you would want to resist your opponent rather than submit. But what if the other person is not an opponent but someone who wants to give you something good? Would you then want to push them away - to resist?

Submission here is not a negative defeat but a positive choice to allow oneself to be loved by one who wants to love. It is completely different from submission to someone who wants to dominate. The church marriage service and Ephesians invites us to think about our own response to Jesus. In Jesus we have one who loves us so much that he was prepared to be crucified for us. He longs to give his love to each one of us - men and women, boys and girls. Are we, are you, willing to be loved by him? Too often we do the opposite of submitting - we resist. But why do we resist Christ's love? Submitting to him is a positive choice to allow yourself to be loved by him.

Mark

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Friends of St John and St Gregory Club

1st (84) Jean Miles £30, 2nd (13) Ann Knight £20,
3rd (92) Anne Sadler £15

This is the last draw of our current year and existing subscribers will be receiving renewal forms shortly. As always we have had some 'natural wastage' and would welcome new subscribers to keep our numbers up. Contact me on 01404 812040 or email annknight@gmx.com if you would like to support us.

All Change at Tipton Church

A presentation took place at our Annual Church Meeting on 23rd April when Lizzi Steel and Keith Poultney retired as Churchwardens after long and faithful service to the Church in this capacity - in Lizzi's case for 17 years and in Keith's for 11 years.



Lizzi and Keith (seen here with our vicar Mark Ward at the presentation) were taken by surprise and left speechless (for once!) by the generous collection raised by our appreciative congregation, which enabled us to present them with gifts for their gardens (both are keen gardeners) and a meal out with their supportive spouses. Everyone at the Church is very grateful to Lizzi and Keith for all their hard work as Churchwardens and they will indeed be a hard act to follow. After prayer and discussion, our solution is for their responsibilities to be shared between the members of our Parochial Church Council. There may be the odd hitch as we learn the ropes, but we are all keen to do our best and will benefit from the ongoing support and advice of our outgoing Churchwardens, who will remain keen and active members of our team.

We are always open to new ways in which we can serve our parish, and we celebrated the Coronation Weekend by putting on a Cafe Church service for the first time in the Community Hall. We try to ensure that our regular church services are as welcoming and friendly as possible (and are always followed by coffee and biscuits and chat!), but Cafe Church is a more informal form of service, and we were delighted by the response. The Community Hall was packed, and adults and children alike enjoyed a delicious breakfast of bacon rolls and pastries followed by a short service led by David Williamson with popular songs expertly accompanied on the guitar by Becky Williamson. This was something of an experiment for us, inspired by David and his team but, as it was so well received, we certainly intend to repeat this form of service in the future, so watch out for this on our church calendar and you will all be most welcome to join us there or at any of our regular services.

Mike Smith, Tipton Church PCC

Tipton Fete 2023 - Monday 28th August

Our annual village fete, organised by Tipton Church, is to take place on August Bank Holiday Monday (28th August), so please put this date in your diaries.

We plan to have the usual wide variety of stalls (homemade cakes and produce, books, toys and games, crafts, jewellery, bric-a-brac, plants, etc), together with barbecue lunches and home-made cream teas, accompanied by live music as before, and this year we also hope to provide some more games and entertainment for the children.

We always try to introduce some new attractions each year, so do please get in touch if you would like to have a stall, put on a display or entertainment, run a game, promote a local charity or club (which we are always pleased to do - last year we were joined by our local environmental group, Eager Beavers, who we hope will come again), or to participate in any way.

Of course, we could not put on such an event without the help of our wonderful volunteers who put up signs and gazebos, assist with stalls and games, supervise parking, flip burgers, serve refreshments, fetch and carry, and tidy up afterwards. There are jobs suitable for everyone, and the more helpers we have the easier they are. It is always a happy and relaxed atmosphere and a good opportunity to make new friends in the village, so let me know if you would like to help in any way.

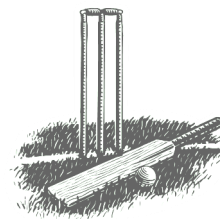
Please contact me - Mike Smith, telephone 01404 812542 - if you would like to be involved, and put Monday 28th August in your diaries.

Mike Smith, Fete Chairman



Tipton St John Cricket Club

Sadly, the new cricket season has been very badly disrupted so far with only three out of nine scheduled matches played because of a combination of poor weather, unfit pitches, player unavailability and the opposition cancelling. This is in stark contrast to last season when we were oversubscribed for nearly every match and fulfilled the vast majority of our fixtures. We do expect availability for matches to improve as players recover from injury and the weather has now certainly taken a turn for the better.



We have won two of the four matches to have been played so far, losing in a low-scoring evening match against the Met Office on a very damp pitch. Nevertheless, we nearly contrived to defend a total of 51-6, reducing the Met Office to 52-8. Our other loss was an evening match at Exwick where we lost on the penultimate ball, trying to defend 131-8.

Both our victories were away, to Ottery St Mary and Broadclyst Pins. Ottery couldn't match our total of 174-8 from 40 overs, built around a solid 78 from Matthew Brewster, and finished 18 runs short. We posted 131-7 in 20 overs against Broadclyst in the lovely surroundings of Killerton, with Matt Brewster, again, and Rob Stirling leading the way with the bat. Freddie Fraser, on debut, took a hat-trick in his 4-5 to reduce our hosts to 116-8.

We hope that things will take a turn for the better in June. Our annual tour to Cornwall takes place from the 9th-11th and has often been the spur which sets the season back on track. Our home fixtures for June and July are below. Spectators are always welcome!

June	Sun	4th	Blagdon Hill	1pm
	Tues	13th	Woodbury & Newton St Cyres	6pm
	Weds	21st	Sunset	6pm
	Fri	23rd	Kingswood	6pm
	Sun	25th	Whimble	1pm
	Thurs	29th	Exwick Jokers	6pm
July	Sun	2nd	South Brent	1pm
	Sun	9th	Erratics	1pm
	Sun	23rd	Bakers	1pm
	Sun	30th	Kings Road CC	1pm



Rob Stirling (above) and
Matt Brewster (below)
in action against
Broadclyst Pins



The Tipton XI at Ottery



Follow our fortunes via our website and our Facebook and Twitter pages:

<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/tiptonstjohn/>

<https://twitter.com/home>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057807483472>

David Birch (Chairman)

Community Hall

A *Film Night* took place in April which was the first for several years and we were pleased to see an audience of 42 people who all seemed to enjoy the occasion. Following positive feedback, we will screen another film in the autumn.

I mentioned in the last Tipton Times that we planned to offer some training on using a defibrillator plus some basic first aid. This will take place on **Saturday 24th June** and we are delighted that Lisette Johnston is available as our instructor. There will be two separate sessions of about 45 minutes each - the first one will start at 10.30am and the second one at 11.30am. The number of participants will have to be limited so if you would like to attend, please contact me as soon as possible to book a place (see details below). If these sessions get booked up quickly and there is sufficient demand, we will hopefully be able to arrange another date for later in the year.

Along with the Playing Field, we held a *Volunteering Day* on the Coronation Bank Holiday and we are grateful to those who came to help which enabled us to complete several of the more urgent jobs (particularly weeding!). If you couldn't make that date but are still willing to help in some way, please let me know.

The following day will not be forgotten for many years to come, as the flash flooding caused so much damage and heartache in the village, which included leaving behind a thick layer of silt all over the car park after the water had subsided. The Trustees would like to thank all those volunteers who turned up the next morning to help push the silt to the sides of the car park and to Mark Clapp who did a great tidying-up job for us with his tractor a few days later.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual envelope collection which is much appreciated. If you haven't got around to it, it is not too late so please either leave your donation with Alita in the shop or contact Brian Rice (01404-811396) if you need another envelope. If you prefer to pay by BACS, the account details are on the envelope and also in the last issue (page 5) and if you can Gift Aid your donation then it's worth even more to us!

As announced earlier this year, the timber floor in the main hall is being completely replaced this summer which will correct a slope in one corner and provide an attractive uniform finish across the whole floor. To enable this to happen, it means the main hall will be closed for bookings during August.

An advance notice - the actor Tony Harris who has entertained us on two previous occasions as Henry VIII and Winston Churchill, has been booked for another visit on **Saturday 11th November** - further details in the next issue.

Finally, our AGM takes place on **Thursday 29th June** at **7.30pm** and you are all welcome to attend to show your support. Thank you.

John Belton (01404-813431) or email: thebeltons@talk21.com



Coronation celebrations - Matt Williamson

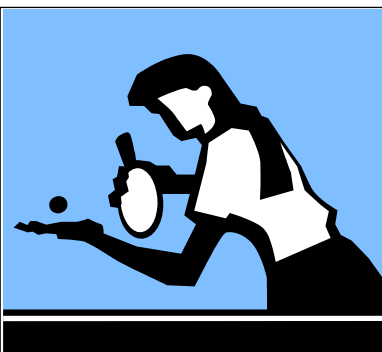


Table Tennis
From 7.30pm
in the
Community Hall

Monday, 12th & 26th June

Monday, 10th & 24th July

Defibrillator
Training

10.30am or
11.30am

Saturday, 24th June

in the Community
Hall

Contact John Belton to book a place



TIPPS News

There is not really much in the way of news to report as this is very much our quiet time of year. Although we have been getting together for some play readings and of course the juniors are still meeting every week, the production they had planned for early summer has been pushed back and will now be later in the year.

The One Act Play Festival is still planned for our October slot and more details will be forthcoming nearer the time.

A WIN!

We have had some cheering news, we submitted the programme for Cinderella, last year's pantomime, to NODA (the national organisation to which we are affiliated) to be judged and we are thrilled to have been awarded best in category. Congratulations and well done to Shân Merritt for compiling it and Natalie Anning for designing the front cover.

Our AGM is to be on **22nd July** in the Community Hall at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. The meeting itself is usually very short and it will be followed by a bring and share supper and bring your own drinks. If you are thinking you might join us as a member please come along.

On a personal note, could I take this opportunity to thank Ann, Barbara, the Scouts and everyone involved for the lovely evening in the Playing Field on Coronation day. It was great to see so many families there with all the children playing games and working up an appetite for the barbeque, which was excellent, as were the beautifully decorated cup cakes.

Have a lovely summer!

Yvonne Kellett



Volunteering Day

Monday May 8th was intended nationally as a day to volunteer in your community. Alas it was wet and very 'off-putting'. A few stalwarts turned up and did some weeding at the Hall and there were helpers for the Playing Field too.

However if you were full of good intentions but didn't make it and would still like to do your bit the same contacts would be only too pleased to hear from you -

The Community Hall contact John Belton (Chairman) on 01404 813431

The Playing Field contact David Birch (Chairman) on 07929 822940

The Eager Beavers contact can be via Facebook, or EagerBeaversTSJ@hotmail.com

The Church contact Lizzi Steel 01404 815737

The PTFA contact Nikki Peckham nikkipeckham@gmail.com

1st Tipton St John Scout Group are always looking for Leaders and helpers so if you were inspired by the eager youngsters on the field please contact Alison Clatworthy the group Scout leader

[<prclatworthy@btinternet.com>](mailto:prclatworthy@btinternet.com)



Let us eat cake!

For a little more than an hour, free tea and cake was served at 5.00pm to kick off Tipton's Coronation Day party.

Coronation cake cases had been willingly accepted by many ladies in Tipton village, each dozen to be filled with a tasty little treat. The variety of flavours, decorations and bright colours made for a jewel-like presentation.

Thanks to the generosity of all, over 200 little cakes were baked and delivered. As a result, in a brief eager flurry, little short of one hundred cups of tea, around fifty blackcurrant, orange and elderflower soft drinks and ALL the cakes had disappeared by ten past six!

Beautifully done, Ladies!

Barbara Pugh

Going, going ... so many platefuls, each of a dozen little 'jewels', were already disappearing.

Tipton St John Primary School

The last week has been a challenge recovering from the recent flood. Thank you to all the passers-by who have stopped to offer their support and pressure washers!



A special big thank you to John and Pauline at the Community Hall, who have provided a temporary space to Maple Class whilst their classroom dries out, alleviating a lot of our concerns. This has made a big difference to the children.

As for many other homes and businesses, the clean-up continues ... fortunately, on this occasion only one classroom was affected. We are replacing carpets and furniture in this room and hope to have it back up and running in mid-June. The outside areas could not be used for a week whilst the mud was being professionally cleared.

Sadly, this incident is a reminder once again that the school is not sustainable on its current site and the children deserve to have an education that is not disrupted by such events. The governors and staff continue to support the relocation of the school to a new building and we await an update from the National Schools Rebuilding Programme for a timeline for this project, which at its earliest stage will involve Devon County Council and the Department For Education identifying a new site.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Amanda Fulford, Executive Headteacher Otter Valley Federation

The Otter Valley Federation* is recruiting for new Governors

Ever thought about being a school Governor? Do you have skills that you think could contribute to the strategic leadership of the Federation? Well now is your opportunity!

If you have an interest in education and would like to support your local schools please feel free to contact Sarah Walls, Chair of the Governing Board at sarah.walls@ottervalleyfederation.org or Jemma Bargery, Vice Chair, on jemma.bargery@ottervalleyfederation.org who can give you more information about the vacancies and the roles available.

**Otter Valley Federation comprises Tipton St John Church of England Primary School and Feniton Church of England Primary School.*

At school, we had fun celebrating the King's Coronation. Unfortunately the weather put paid to our grander plans of having a picnic on our field, but as you can see, the children were able to put their creative talents to work, whilst finding out about the significance of the occasion.



Willow Class have had a fantastic time on Residential, camping for two nights, and experiencing the natural side of life! They did some brilliant activities including zip-wiring (in the dark!), getting to hold owls, pizza making, rope trail and orienteering. For some it was their first nights away from home, and they all did so well.

As I write our Year 2s and Year 6s are deep in SATs tests, but these will be done by the end of the week. We are then looking forward to a summer full of different activities, including a whole-school trip to Paignton Zoo which everyone is excited about!

We are always on the look out for adult volunteers to support with different aspects of school life - especially listening to readers so, if you are able to spare an hour or two, do get in touch!



Pete Button, Head of School Tel: 812943 admin@tipton-stjohn.devon.sch.uk

Venn Ottery and Southerton Residents Association News Update June 2023

FLOODING AGAIN!

The storm of 9th May brought flooding - AGAIN - to parts of Venn Ottery. Six houses were badly flooded, and residents of five have had to move to other accommodation until repairs can be completed. We would like to send a heartfelt THANK YOU to those who came out and helped clearing mud and silt from houses and gardens. The work continues but at least (for the moment) it's drier now.

CORONATION CELEBRATION

The picnic held on Venn Ottery Green to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III went well, with about 40 people plus children enjoying fine weather and their picnics (possibly with a glass or two of wine). Commemorative mugs were given to the resident youngsters who attended and I have some extras for those who didn't make it - please ring me (01404 812733) to arrange delivery or collection.

MUSIC ON THE GREEN

Music on the Green is back after an enforced Covid absence of three years. The band is The Nightjars - local guys who play great music for dancing and, when the band is taking a rest, we have recorded disco music as well - it should be a great evening!



Put the date in your diaries
Saturday 24th June from 5.30pm
Get your tickets now and come along for
some great music and dancing in the open air!
Bring seating and refreshments

Tickets are £7.50 for adults, £20 for a family ticket (2 adults and 3 children). Special prices for larger families. Please ring 01404 812806 (Jan), 01404 812733 (Shân) or 07790 527840 (Denise) for tickets. Cash or cheques please!
YOUR TICKET IS ALSO A RAFFLE TICKET SO DON'T LOSE IT!

MUSIC ON THE GREEN

LIVE MUSIC BY

THE NIGHTJARS

+ RECORDED MUSIC
DANCING IN THE OPEN AIR

VENN OTTERY GREEN
Saturday 24th June, 5.30pm
TICKETS £7.50 adults
Family ticket £20 (2 adults + 3 kids)
Includes a soft drink & a raffle ticket
01404 812806, 01404 812733, or 07790 527840
CASH or CHEQUE please

**Bring Your Own
seats and
refreshments**

**Parking at
Bowhayes Farm or
Venn Ottery Barton**



As I sit and write this article, the sun is shining and we have spent many hours today outside tending the garden. It is hard to believe that it was only a week ago that the village was flooded following very heavy rainfall and the roads, fields and unfortunately some houses were overflowing with muddy water.

This, as we all too readily know is not a one-off event. It has happened here many times throughout the years and, having moved to East Devon from Sussex, wasn't something that I had been exposed to before.

On a more positive note, the overwhelming sense of community is also something that I did not experience in Sussex either. Prior to relocating, I had lived around Chichester all of my life, my most recent village for around ten years and I didn't know anyone other than my next door neighbours! I would travel to work on my bike, come home, take my son to school etc., but had absolutely no sense of community or belonging to the area in which I lived. I would like to think this wasn't unique to me; whereas in Devon it is quite normal, (indeed almost expected) to begin a conversation with someone in the street or alongside you in a queue, in Sussex this would not happen, even direct eye contact could be seen as unusual.

Back in Tipton, when we realised the extent of the damage following the latest flooding, the first response was to make sure everyone was safe and then to initiate clearing up the mud and debris as soon as possible. Despite the ongoing rain, large numbers of the local community were out in force with spades, shovels and brooms attempting to restore some sense of normality and enable traffic to flow once again. It was hard and it was messy work, but there was laughter and a definite sense of (dare I say) pride in coming together and helping one another.



Clearing up the mud

This leads on nicely to the reasons why I think EagerBeaversTSJ have been so successful in so many different ways. Having started by just picking up litter (which I would hope you'd agree has considerably reduced as a



Pulling up Balsam

result), we have grown and diversified with many other projects. Initially it was through looking at the village as a whole, we recognised the need to provide more plants and areas for our bees and pollinators. We then had several bird and bat boxes to install and received funding to enable us to test the river Otter from Ottery to Budleigh. Moving forward, we also managed to secure an area on the Playing Field for the community garden and although we are only just into our second year, I would like to say this has been more rewarding than I could ever have hoped. This has subsequently been extended to provide a seated area on tree stumps which we have used for workshops and also just a chat or a cup of tea.

Our pop up café has proved to be extremely popular and has been running since the end of last year, providing the opportunity for people to meet and relax once a month in the Community Hall. Our latest project has been the nature area between the Playing Field and the river which we are hoping to be able to promote and protect as a unique area of wet woodland (watch this space)

What do all of these things have in common you may ask?? **COMMUNITY**. We have a fantastic sense of belonging in Tipton St John. A small village it may be, but it has a big heart. I am very proud to live here and hope that the few things that EagerBeaversTSJ have achieved so far will help to reinforce this statement.

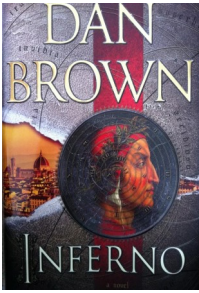
We still have many other plans in the pipeline (so to speak) so please look out for posters around the village and/or posts on social media. Our next pop up café is in the village hall on the 28th May and we are then hoping to run outdoor cafes on the Playing Field in June and July.

We are EagerBeaversTSJ, find us on Facebook, email EagerBeaversTSJ@hotmail.com or you can text me on 07870 967 250 to join our WhatsApp group.

Lisette Johnston.



Tipton Readers



Inferno by Dan Brown

American author Dan Brown shot to fame in 2003 with his second book, *The Da Vinci Code*, featuring symbologist and codebreaker Robert Langdon. *Inferno* is the fourth book in the Robert Langdon series and all follow a similar pattern: high-paced thrillers in which Langdon is involved in a desperate chase to solve a pattern of riddles hidden in symbols, set among sites of historical interest.



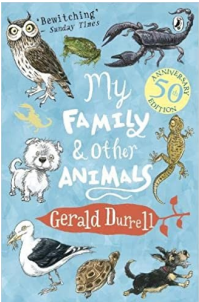
Inferno starts in Florence and the mystery revolves around the great poem *Inferno* by Dante Alighieri. Langdon and the beautiful and brilliant young doctor Sienna Brooks have a desperate chase around famous sites of Florence, chased by murderous gangs, to track down Dante's death mask before the next clue in the trail is revealed. They work out that famous biologist, Bertrand Zobrist, has taken it into his mind to solve the world population problem by releasing a virus. Aided by the secretive *Consortium*, which will protect wealthy individuals for large sums of money without asking any questions, Zobrist has hidden his virus ... can Langdon and Brooks track it down before it is too late?

Without giving away any (more) spoilers, Langdon's deep knowledge of Dante's poem and its links with the great sites of Florence and beyond, stretches the credibility somewhat, but makes for a fun and page-turning adventure which most of us thoroughly enjoyed. It has to be said though that one of our members scored it very low, hating Brown's writing style and finding the coincidences far too unbelievable.

Perhaps most interestingly, though, Brown really made us stop and think about the world population problem and the morals around how or whether it could be addressed, and this took up much of our discussion. It was also sobering and somewhat scary to learn that the *Consortium* was based on a real organisation, albeit by another name.

Ken Mylne

My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell



I chose this book for two reasons. Firstly it was one that I felt I should have read and never had and secondly, I really enjoyed the televised version and wanted to know if it was true to the book. It turned out not to be a good book group choice in that everyone enjoyed it. So having agreed on that, there wasn't a lot to discuss!

Written in 1952 when the author was newly-married and in need of money to support his wife and fund his expeditions, it describes the author's childhood experiences on an unspoilt, pre-war Corfu so well that you almost feel you are there. It is virtually autobiographical, although there are one or two variations from the truth. For example his older brother, Lawrence, was actually married and living with his wife on another part of the island and the return to England was due to the coming war and not for the sake of his education.

We all loved the detailed description of the wild life, such beautiful writing, and the humour of the family as they were so different from each other. The whole relaxed atmosphere was a treat, although we did notice a huge difference in the attitude to the animals. For instance, who now would think it right to take two baby magpies from a nest for pets just because two had been left for the mother?

Yes, the television version was a very good one with just a bit of romance added in but the characters seemed just right. Perhaps that was because I had seen it first so saw the actors' faces as I read.

We scored it at 8.5 with all 11 members present giving it 8 or 9 so if you haven't already done so we recommend you to read it.

Ann Knight

Garden news - Tulips not from Amsterdam



I splashed out on some bulbs last year but with one thing and another I knew I was going to struggle to get them in the flower beds, so I emptied every large pot, filled them with compost and crammed in all the tulip bulbs then left them over the winter. I was feeling somewhat guilty that I hadn't paid more attention to them however, come the spring, how delighted I was to have glorious pots of colour which I could place in strategic places to brighten up various parts of the garden. A happy accident!



The tulips have not stopped there though. It seems you don't need to go to Holland to see amazing displays and, although not on the huge scale of the Netherlands, there are great things going on in England. We recently took a trip to Kent and, on the way, visited Wisley. We visited last September so it was great to see the change of season and my! those tulips were stunning! Mostly planted in the grass in waves of colour, they looked fantastic with every variety labelled as expected so you could make your choices next year. (I'm afraid I can't remember the varieties I chose for my pots.)



On into Kent we encountered more displays - many white and cream ones in the White Garden at Sissinghurst and other colours planted more randomly, also pots stuffed full of a single variety. Our trip culminated in a visit to Pashley Manor which is a beautiful garden surrounding the manor and each year for the last 20 years they have opened for a tulip weekend. Lucky we were in the area to see this and see how a garden can incorporate tulips in amongst other planting. I would recommend a visit if you are in the area.

It seems that many people now regard tulips as annuals which seems sad. Apparently, in Holland, they dig them all up and get rid of them. That seems heart breaking to me and I'm definitely going to plant my collection in the borders in the

hopes that at least some will come up and that the resident squirrel doesn't find them! So enough of the writing - enjoy the photos (if you can look on line you'll get the full effect).



Alison Stevens

Thank you!



Metcombe Court Open Garden for **Hospiscare** was a big success! We had an amazing turnout with over 500 people and raised a staggering £3,720.34 even though the weather on the bank holiday Monday was not very good.

A huge thank you to everyone who came and supported us and the Sing Out choirs of West Hill and Rockbeare, the West Hill Ukulele band and all the wonderful volunteers, without whom we couldn't possibly have managed.

Heather Fairbairn

Anyone for tennis?

There's nothing that says summer more than strawberries and cream at Wimbledon!

However, if you haven't got tickets for this year's Championships, you could create your own tennis experience down at Tipton! It's never too late to get involved at Tipton St John Tennis Club. Membership at the Club is one of the most affordable tennis subscriptions available throughout the country and there's something for everyone down at the waterside club. Whether that's a fun knock on the courts, a spot of coaching to improve your game or some competitive tennis in the Exeter and District Tennis League, Tipton Tennis Club has it covered.

The League sides have started the 2023 season with mixed fortunes. If competition is your thing, the Tipton teams would love to hear from you, as the Club could do with some more team members for its squads.

The B team hit the ground running in Division Four, with three wins out of four before being humbled 8-0 by a strong Dawlish side on 22 May. Carving out the majority of points have been Captain Steve Upsher, Finn Upsher, Ray Puttick and Tim Burrige, with support from Kasper Henriksen and Lev Konar.

The A team has struggled for players and consequently to field a consistently competitive foursome in Division Two, but has kept battling for points from its early fixtures and will be hoping that home-coming University players Ben Rutter and Jake Upsher will help them avoid relegation come the end of the season. The mainstay of the team so far has been Captain Simon Hopper, Pete Clarke, Glyn Heritage and Dale Preece, with several B-teamers 'playing up'.

The Ladies team has made an impressive start to their Division Five campaign, accumulating 24 points from four matches (for the uninitiated, a point is scored for every set won) and stand in third place.

Steve Upsher

Club coach Ray Puttick runs a number of coaching sessions on the two beautifully located floodlit courts.

Mondays, 5pm to 6pm - Juniors of Primary School age
Maximum players 6. Fee per player £5

Wednesdays, 5pm to 6pm - Juniors of Secondary School age
Maximum players 6. Fee per player £5

Thursdays, 9.30am to 11am - Beginner Group/ Rusty Rackets Drills
Maximum players 6. Fee per player £6

Sundays, 10am to 11.30 am - Tennis Drill and Skills session
Maximum players 6. Fee per player £6

Individual One to One - Adult - 90 Minutes. Fee £25
or Two to One - Adult - 60 Minutes. Fee £20
Juniors - 90 Minutes. Fee £20, or 60 minutes. Fee £15

For more information visit the Club website at [Tipton St John Tennis Club / Membership / Packages \(Ita.org.uk\)](https://www.tiptonstjohntennisclub.org.uk/Membership/Packages)

Ottery Heritage Society and Museum

Our monthly talks take place at The Institute, Yonder St., Ottery St Mary on the 3rd Tuesday of the month commencing at 7.30pm. Guests are welcome for £2 payable at the door.

Tuesday June 20th - 'Jumping' Joe Beyrle'

Brian Fernley relates the uplifting story and amazing exploits of a brave USAAF 'D-Day' paratrooper with the will and determination to survive.

Tuesday July 18th - 'Swimming with Sharks'

Mark Taylor Hutchinson relates his experiences in studying the behaviour of sharks at very close quarters and revealing surprising new facts about these fascinating creatures from the deep.

The Museum

Located in the Old Town Hall opposite St Mary's Church in Ottery St Mary. The museum is now open for the summer season. New displays include the Covid Quilt and the Great Ottery Hailstorm. Please check our web-site for up-to-date opening hours: www.otterheritage.org.uk

If you can spare a little time and would like to volunteer to Steward for a few hours, we would love to hear from you. Enquiries to Lynda Murlewski, Hon. Secretary: otterheritage@gmail.com



A Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors

I have decided to stand down as a District Councillor following the elections on the 4th May and therefore will not be seeking re-election.

I have served in Local Government since 2014 at first sitting as a Town Councillor representing the Tipton St John Ward and then since 2018 being elected to serve the Ottery St. Mary Ward on East Devon District Council. For the past 4 years I have sat on the Planning Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee and the Asset Management Forum and was appointed Assistant Portfolio Holder for Economy and Asset Management.

It has been a privilege serving the community and working with the officers and members from all the political groups with our shared focus to support, promote and improve local government. I hope to pursue other interests outside the political arena.

Kind regards

Geoff Pratt, former Independent EDDC Councillor, Ottery St Mary Ward



Ottery St Mary Town Council

The following Councillors were elected at the May election:

North ward: Richard Grainger and Vicky Johns

Ottery Town ward: Paul Bartlett, Richard Copus, Peter Faithfull, John Green, Stewart Lucas, Nick Sneller, Dean Stewart

Tipton St John ward: Two vacancies remain. An election is being called by EDDC and nomination papers need to be returned to EDDC, Blackdown House, Honiton by 4pm on Thursday 25th May. Full details are available on the Council website.

Cllr Richard Grainger was elected as the Mayor. Cllr Dean Stewart was elected as Deputy Mayor and as the Councillor with special responsibility for Finance.

The Council thanked Cllr Vicky Johns and Cllr Stewart Lucas for their contribution as Mayor and Deputy Mayor over the past three years.

The Council agreed to have the following committees: Planning; Finance; Human Resources Management; Strategy; Operations and Environment; Local Development and Commerce. Meetings will be set up for these committees in the coming weeks. Information regarding agendas and minutes will be available on the Council website.

The Council agreed membership to the committees, working groups and representatives to outside bodies. The Council reviewed its Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and asset register.

EDDC Cllrs Vicky Johns and Peter Faithfull have both visited Tipton St John to speak to residents affected by the flood as have some Town Councillors. EDDC is looking at the immediate needs of those affected and will then start work on longer term needs. Information for residents regarding this is available on the Council website. The CEO will check the emergency boxes located in the cellar of the Council Offices and the Council will try to find a suitable location for an emergency box in Tipton St John and Alfington.

Future Full Council meeting dates:

Monday 5th June 2023 – Council Offices

Monday 3rd July 2023 – Tipton St John Community Hall

Useful dates:

Citizens Advice at Council Offices every Tuesday from 9.30am until 11.30

DCC Highways Surgery on Thursday 20th July from 10.15am - 12.00

The Town Council Offices are open from 10am until 1pm Monday to Friday. If you do need to contact the Council please call 01404 812252 or email admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk. You can keep up to date by following our Facebook page or looking at our new [website www.otterystmary-tc.gov.uk](http://www.otterystmary-tc.gov.uk) where you can view agendas and minutes for all Council and Committee Meetings, together with news and updates.

Kerry Kennell. CEO

Rain kept falling

In terms of how much rain fell locally, Tony Pugh recorded 35.2mm in Hayne Park, and weather recorders in Barton Orchard and Mallocks Close measured between 50-60mm (about 2 inches).

Radar estimates suggest that some spots may have received 80-100mm in about 3 hours.

Perhaps more remarkably, one of Tony's half-hourly observations recorded a rainfall rate of 144mm per hour.

Ken Mylne

Jess Bailey Independent Devon County Councillor, Otter Valley Ward

As readers will be aware a terrible storm hit Tipton on 9th May causing dreadful flood damage and destruction to many Tipton homes, as well as homes in Harpford, Venn Ottery, Newton Poppleford and Colaton Raleigh. There was an incredible community response, and by Devon Fire and Rescue Service and East Devon District Council and Devon County Council officers. My sincere sympathies to everyone who suffered the misery of a flooded home, and my thanks to everyone who responded so magnificently.

After the initial clean up a multi agency flood recovery group was quickly set up. I have been attending meetings of this group, and amongst other initiatives I have been pressing for a hardship fund to assist residents who have suffered uninsured losses. I am hopeful that this will be finalised in the very near future.

I also want to highlight that there is funding available through DCC's property resilience scheme to enable individual property owners to be better equipped with the tools and basic defence measures they need. Full details of the Property Flood Resilience Scheme is available on the DCC website. If you have difficulty accessing this please contact me. I have been pressing for a 'drop-in' flood event in Tipton, and am hopeful that this will take place in the very near future.



DCC is the Lead Local Flood Authority, and will be carrying out an investigation into the flood. In the meantime,

DCC is working closely with the Environment Agency (which has responsibility for main rivers and land management) on flood prevention issues.

One of the most worrying aspects of the 9th May flood was the impact on Tipton School. While the effect on the school caused severe disruption with children getting home hours late (but safely), and being relocated from their normal classroom, mercifully matters were not even worse. It could have been so much more serious. Massive thanks to Pete Button and the other teachers for the brilliant way that they responded to the huge challenges.

But it should not be like this. The government last December has finally included Tipton St John School on the list of schools to be potentially rebuilt. However, it is so disappointing that since then there has been no tangible progress. ITV Westcountry News recently featured Tipton St John School and the report can be



found on my Facebook page. I will be continuing to keep the pressure up on the government, until such time as the school relocation and rebuild is completed within Tipton St John.

Cllr Jess Bailey
01404 814056

jessica.bailey@devon.gov.uk

Tipton Weather Bureau, May 2023

No doubt this issue of Tipton Times will be full of stories of the floods and mud-flows on 9th May, and hopefully of the great community spirit in Tipton pulling together to help with the clean-up. My thoughts are with those who were severely flooded and will be suffering the impact for weeks or months to come. So the question is what caused this event and why was it so much worse in our local area than other places very nearby?

Tipton is quite familiar with floods but every one is different. In 1968 the bridge was swept away by a flood on the River Otter. More recently, the biggest flood since I moved to Tipton was from the *Ottery Storm* in 2008 when a prolonged, torrential hail-storm in Ottery and West Hill sent a wave of water racing down the valley, several feet deep across the Playing Fields, destroying the tennis courts and flooding the garage and many properties. In that flood we also had a huge torrent down the Metcombe Brook which washed cars down Metcombe Road and flooded properties near the church and school. On a number of occasions in the past the main village street has been flooded by water from the Combe Goyle. Several years ago work was done to raise the defences around that stream and improve the flow, which was successful in preventing flooding, until last week. So one of the reasons that Tipton is vulnerable is that it can be hit from at least three different directions, the River Otter, the Metcombe Brook and the Combe Goyle. On this latest occasion, Venn Ottery

was also severely flooded from another of the small streams coming down from the West Hill ridge.

On 9th May the Met Office issued a Yellow Warning for heavy showers and thunderstorms across a large swathe of southern England from south Cornwall and Devon right up to East Anglia and Kent. This was driven by a strong 'trough' in the upper atmosphere which was travelling eastwards, expected to be centred over Devon around 1600 in the afternoon (1500 UTC) (see figure, left). A trough is an area of lower pressure, where the jet-stream turns towards the south and then curves sharply left, back towards the NE or North. The trough has two effects

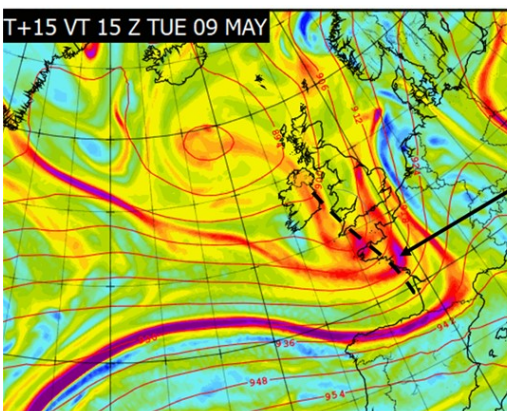
which encourage thunderstorms. Firstly, and most simple to understand, it brings colder air high up in the atmosphere. The jet-stream marks the boundary between colder arctic air to the north and warmer tropical air to the south, so when the jet-stream bends southwards we get colder air high up above us. Cold air is heavier than warm air, so if cold air moves over warmer air below, the warm air rises rapidly, a bit like a bubble rising from the bottom of a pan of boiling water. As the air bubble rises it cools rapidly, generating cloud, rain and hail: a thunderstorm. The second impact of the trough is to generate falling pressure just ahead of the trough axis which effectively sucks air upwards, further enhancing the thunderstorms, but that requires some advanced maths to explain, not suitable for Tipton Times, even assuming I could remember it!

So the upper trough explains why we got thunderstorms and why they peaked in Tipton in early afternoon, but why did we get so much more rain and impacts than other places? The other important factor seems to have been what meteorologists call a "convergence line". Winds near the surface were generally westerly (blowing from west to east). However, as the land warmed up during the day this generated a sea breeze where wind blows from the cold sea towards the warmer land. Over the western part of Lyme Bay, with the coast of the Torbay region pulling the sea breeze westwards as well as north, the onshore sea breeze was blowing towards the north or even the northwest, converging with the prevailing westerly wind. This converging air can only go in one direction, upwards, so this convergence strongly enhanced the upward motion in the thunderstorms. It is early days in the analysis, but I believe that Tipton St John and Newton Poppleford, being 3-4 miles inland from the coast, were unlucky in being just where the strongest sea-breeze convergence occurred, perhaps enhanced by the shape of Lyme Bay and south Devon.

The combined effects of the upper trough and the surface convergence was to produce exceptionally strong thunderstorms in our area, with hail and heavy rain. All this rain cascaded down from the hills on both sides of the Otter Valley, down the Metcombe Brook and the Combe Goyle, flooding the village from both directions. Counter to what the BBC said, the River Otter did not burst its banks: in fact it was well below danger level so no impact on the Playing Field or garage - it was the side streams which did all the damage on this occasion.

I don't suppose it is much consolation to those who were flooded, but I hope that gives a little understanding of why our local area got the worst of the impacts on 9th May.

Ken Mylne





Coronation Street Parties

*Celebrations in **Hayne Close**,
photo above by Matt Williamson*

*And photos from Barbara Pugh
of Coronation memories in
Hayne Park (including neighbours
round the corner!)*

*Alison's cake was made from their
own hens' golden-yolk eggs.*



*Hazel celebrated with us a
THIRD Coronation*



RSPB Aylesbeare Common



Well, I was poised to write another article full of the usual whatever takes our fancy that we think is useful or interesting (the endless bank holidays, the summer return of our nightjars, the unusual case of bright yellow graffiti appearing on our main Aylesbeare Common sign). Instead I want to devote this to the floods following the terrific rainfall on Tuesday 9th May because it really was the most incredible event. As a matter of fact, that morning, we'd just been doing some filming for a BBC Breakfast feature on our smooth snakes reintroduction 14 years ago but, by the end of the day, Newton Poppleford and Tipton St John were on the national BBC news! Our rain gauge had 35mm of rain in 2 hours but we heard others had far more. We were indoors as the rain began and we were in awe as the thunderstorm struck above us, the hail deafening on the roof and turning our hard surfaces to ponds. Trying to get home to, or via, Newton Poppleford later that afternoon, we became aware of the extent of the floods and the damage. We've been very moved by it all, some of us personally affected by the flooding, as well as seeing and hearing stories of the wreckage to people's homes as well as to roads, bridges, hedges, walls ...

It's also a personal matter for us because Aylesbeare and Harpford Commons sit above Newton Poppleford, and the Back Brook comes off this heathland. What struck me is how fast this rain fell - and how it just goes to show that landscapes don't stand much of a chance of preventing flooding with rainfall events like this. It's the sort of extreme weather we may expect more of with climate change but it's very likely that things could have been much worse downstream in the village. The heath will have acted as a big sponge: it's covered in scrubby shrub and grassland, mires, ponds and bogs and wet heath, all adept at holding and absorbing water. As I wandered down the stream, which is shrouded in wet woodland, that runs through the middle of Harpford Common on Wednesday (we spent the day assessing the damage), I thought to myself, what better flood-alleviating habitat could you look for than this? The meandering, indecisive channels of the river, the water often running several streams at once through dense vegetation of oak, ash and willow, full of mosses, liverworts, dead wood, natural and also (our own) man-made *leaky dams*. We've done a lot of work with the likes of Upstream Thinking, which gives grants and advice on land management in river catchments (eg benefitting water quality and flooding) and water is one of conservationists' key focuses, particularly on the Otter where we now have beavers.

When it comes to the damage we found on Aylesbeare and Harpford Commons, it was interesting to see. In some cases, the erosion and evidence was less than expected, in others it was a rather intimidating sight the next day. I went first to our string of 'five ponds,' all in a row and separated by dams. I wondered if the dams might have given way but they were all intact and the channels that run from one to the next were fine. Some of our pebbly tracks were in a bad state and any future heavy rain will only make the erosion worse so we'll have to find a way of restoring the surfaces, while using local source material (an obligation since it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest). As I wandered along our tarmac track and made my way down to the ford, I found it impassable on foot or by vehicle, the water deep and wide and the whole area turned to ponds and new beaches of pebbles. Also we lost both footbridges along here! The one by the ford had slipped its stands and was sitting down at a jaunty angle. When I went to the south end of the stream, just before it leaves the common, I found the bridge 2m high, above a beach of pebbles at the edge of a field, maybe 30 feet down, and round a few bends.



By a stroke of good fortune we'd actually booked our friendly local digger driver to do a job for us the day after the storm, and so he was able to restore the ford and the nearby footbridge immediately. Sadly, the one at the south end needs a rescue mission first. It forms part of a Devon County Council footpath so, for now, you'll need wellies.

If you do go for a walk on Aylesbeare, or any of our commons, please do keep your dog on a lead. We ask this during the breeding season above all else - this is not only for the sake of ground nesting birds but also small mammals and reptiles. Speaking of the smooth snakes earlier (and we hope you saw us on BBC Breakfast!) I'd also like to bring your attention to adders - they're very much moving around now, and they have a venomous bite. Most years we hear of dogs being bitten so this is another good reason to keep them on a lead.

We are thinking of everyone in the villages affected and we wish everyone luck on the clear-up job ahead, within homes, communities and the council teams who will be repairing our infrastructure. Do get up on the heaths and enjoy the wildlife and scenery if you can.

Fiona Daggett

Recipe Corner: Prawn and Tuna Fried Rice

This delicious seafood fried rice can be made almost entirely from items that you are likely to have in your store cupboard. Serves two.

INGREDIENTS

½ tbsp coconut or rapeseed oil
1 onion, chopped
½ tsp chilli flakes or fresh chilli, deseeded and chopped
1 garlic clove, chopped
1 cm root ginger, chopped
1 red pepper, deseeded and chopped
200 g cauliflower rice (see below)*
100 g prawns (raw or frozen, defrosted)
100 g tinned tuna
1 tbsp Thai fish sauce
200 g Chinese vegetables or cabbage, diced
2 eggs, beaten
Handful of coriander, torn



*To make your own cauliflower rice, simply grate the florets, or blitz it in a food processor until it reaches a rice-like consistency. Being such a popular foodstuff these days, you can also buy it ready prepared in the freezer section of most supermarkets. Whichever you decide, just use as directed in the recipe.

Heat the oil in a wok and fry the onion, chilli, garlic and ginger for 1 - 2 minutes before adding the red pepper and, after 4 - 5 minutes, stir in the prawns, tuna, fish sauce and the Chinese vegetables or cabbage. (If using raw prawns, cook them until they are pink before adding the other ingredients). Continue to fry gently for another few minutes. Finally, clear a hollow in the centre of the wok in which to scramble the eggs. Stir them through, season and garnish the dish with the coriander.

Enjoy !

Jenny Pinn

Our spring concert was on Saturday April 1st when we performed **Mendelssohn's Elijah** uncut, which means that no choruses were left out, as is often the case. It was a big sing, but the choir rose to the occasion, and Malcolm our MD was very pleased with the outcome. In fact, he thought the choir were outstanding - one of the best in his 23 years as MD. We also had feedback from members of the audience who thoroughly enjoyed the evening.



Our audience was regrettably down in numbers this year, but this in part was due to the competition - 1st April was a popular date for concerts in the vicinity. This also made it difficult to get an orchestra together as some of our regulars were playing elsewhere. But those with us did a very good job in a short period of rehearsal time. We had an extremely good line-up of soloists with Philip Lancaster (baritone) as an outstanding Elijah, plus Héloïse West (soprano), Alison Kettlewell (mezzo soprano), and Leslie Baker (tenor).

Our spring concert is always an expensive concert to perform. Four soloists, an orchestra, plus the hire of church (with heating) and organ mean that it is difficult to recoup all our costs. The choir are now resting their voices and enjoying rest and relaxation, so that they can return in September reinvigorated, and ready for the next singing challenge. Our AGM is on **5th July** when we shall find out what the next music will be, and I shall hopefully be able to reveal to you in the next magazine. We perform again on **9th December** which will come round all too quickly.

Our AGM will be a time to thank everyone for all their hard work over the year, particularly several long-standing members of the committee who will be giving up this year. So we will be looking for people to take over the roles of Secretary, Treasurer and Membership secretary.

If you wish to join us in the autumn term, you would be welcome. We do not audition, but it is useful if you know something of reading music. I can thoroughly recommend singing as a pastime with health benefits to body and soul. We had several new members join last year who have enjoyed their involvement. All details on our website <https://otterystmarychoral.org/> or enquiries to our email address: osmcs@hotmail.co.uk Rehearsals begin again on **Wednesday, 6th September**.

David Wade, Chairman

Tipton Past

A few days before that terrible storm of Tuesday 9th May I wrote this piece about goyles, I had no idea it was going to become so frighteningly relevant ...

Goyles, goyles, goyles.

Goyle, quite a unique word, isn't it? Maybe you are already familiar with this term. So, what is the definition of a goyle? The dictionary describes it as a ravine or gully waterway and living in a valley we obviously have many in our local area. Rain water that collects and runs from the higher grounds and ridgeways finds its own pathway down through the valley sides to the river tributaries. The water wears away the soft sandstone exposing the flint, pebbles and clay creating uneven, steep craggy pathways which would then often be used as rights of way during drier weather. We have goyles running down from West Hill, East Hill and Venn Ottery Common. Harpford Woods has many deeply ravined goyles and even beautiful waterfalls which plunge into deep whirlpools. Goyles rise steeply with tree roots forming steps and moss and ferns flanking the sandstone sides, almost like a Jurassic rainforest.

On the far side of Venn Ottery Common there is a goyle leading up to Higher Metcombe which, when we would ride the ponies up, we would have to tuck our legs up in front of the saddles to fit through the narrow-side sandstone banks - not too bad going up but scary coming down.

The goyle which affects most of our village is Tipton and Combe goyle. It begins on East Hill and runs down through the fields and lanes of Combe, into the village, joining the mill stream beside the garage and then the River Otter. You probably hardly notice it now; maybe you are even unaware of where it is. The water is mostly contained nowadays in under-road tunnels, running below the pub, behind the



The goyle was filled in to make the road

telephone box and under the road by the Old Smithy. Then it stretches in front of Dolberries, behind Ellacombe Cottages, up beside The Orchard cul-de-sac and under the road to Combe goyle. 190 years ago the goyle would have been open, wide and deep at the crossroads area. The road to Sidmouth was not yet built and to travel there you would either go up onto East Hill or use Seaway Lane or go via Harpford. The Sidmouth Road was built during the 1840s by the turnpike road trust. A huge amount of money was spent putting in tunnels and filling in the goyle to create the embankments that support the road we now see. If you stand in the goyle under the road you can appreciate just how much soil it must have taken to fill in the goyle and form the road.

When I was younger many parts of the tunnels were open at the road surface and we would dare each other to crawl up through from the village to Combe. You had to be pretty brave (or is it foolish?) and able to tolerate the dark and spiders! Nowadays it is, thankfully, safely enclosed. There is a story of a young boy being washed down from the goyle during heavy rain and pulled out at the open area on the corner by the Old Smithy. Luckily he was safe but was more worried about his hat that he lost on the way! I also recall Dad coming home with a lamb that had been washed down the goyle during a storm, then later returning it to its frantic mother.

Past flooding in the village has often been exacerbated by the flow of water through the goyle. In the past, dumping of rubbish has impacted and restricted water which then either causes water to overflow into vulnerable areas or suddenly burst through in a gush that overwhelms the village. Keeping the culverts clear has been discussed in many council meetings over the years, and we once had a village Layman who would regularly check and clear the goyles, tunnels, culverts and ditches. Goyles are quite unique to the valleys of Devon and Dorset and we certainly have our fair share of them.



The open culvert

... Many experienced the intensity of the recent flash flood in some way or other, some devastatingly so. My heart goes out to all those people who felt the fear of their homes and businesses being breached by the overpowering water and mud, some not being able to even reach their homes or loved ones and suffering great losses. Their lives will be affected for weeks and even months to come. All of their lives changed in a matter of hours.

We have seen great support offered to help to clear, wash, shovel, give hugs and make tea.

The valley coming together to support one another is one of the reasons we live here.

Judith Taylor

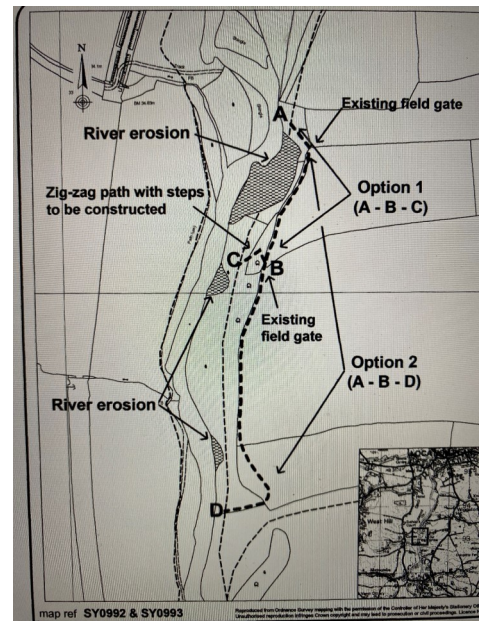


A letter to the editors.

Footpath 46 runs from Tipton St John to Ottery St Mary along the east bank of the River Otter. Or it used to!

About 20 years ago the Otter changed course and a meander eroded a short section of the footpath above Tipton Mill. An alternative route was proposed (see map) but the local landowner opposed this and won on appeal. An attractive walking circuit up one bank of the Otter and down the other was ended. The alternative was a trek inland or an unpleasant road walk to Wiggaton.

Over recent years the Otter has changed course again and is now a considerable distance from footpath 46. In the photo below the river is visible. Footpath 46 is by the hedge line to the left on the edge of the flood plain.



*This photo is taken from the old footpath.
The Otter is some distance away.*



I see no reason why the footpath can't be reinstated on its original route to the benefit of many walkers. I have contacted the person responsible for Devon footpaths and the response is 'it may be reopened but there is no timetable as to when this might happen'. I would like to put on as much pressure as possible to get the footpath reinstated sooner rather than later so a lovely walk is again available. If any of your readers have suggestions how to do this I would be pleased to hear them.

Julian Page jennyandjulian@btinternet.com

The Heart of Caring: How One Mental Health Nurse Inspired Change by Beth Tingle

On International Nurses Day, Sundial Care Home in Tipton St John took the opportunity to share the inspiring story of their resident Moya Finch, who spent her life as a mental health nurse fighting for people's rights and improved best nursing practices.

Moya qualified as a Staff Nurse in the early 70s, and she was quickly promoted to Sister before becoming a Senior Nurse Manager, managing wards that specialised in forensic psychiatry. She was a pivotal member of her team to recognise new and progressive approaches to nursing practices and would apply what she had learnt to establish them within the confines of an inpatient setting - a very challenging area of psychiatry.

Her daughter, Nina, also a nurse, recently found an article written in the mid-80s from *Caring Today* magazine, reporting the efforts made by Moya and her team at Napsbury, after they launched a new model of care that adopted advanced approaches for supporting people with enduring mental health issues. The article was titled 'No 'Jailer' Syndrome in their Philosophy of Care: Napsbury's New Approach', the Senior Nurse Manager explaining "we are not jailers, we are carers." The article introduces Moya as Sister Finch, who "gives generously of her own time to raise money to finance extra activities to enhance the quality of residents' lives and their potential for rehabilitation."

Moya worked for over 25 years as a Psychiatric Nurse, and sadly now lives with Dementia. Nina says Sundial has supported her mum's need to nurture and be nurtured. "The team have reported that mum will often hold the other resident's hands and put shawls around their shoulders. Some people are just endowed with an innate ability to reach people - my mum was one of them. I am so amazed at what she did for people both professionally and personally. She seemed to have endless empathy, brilliant wit and faultless integrity. This world was made slightly better by you mum."

Church Calendar for June and July 2023

Everyone is welcome to join us at any of our services or events

JUNE

SATURDAY	3 rd	10.00 am	Coffee Morning & produce stall	Community Hall
SUNDAY	4 th	10.30 am	Holy Communion for the Otter Vale Mission Community	O.S.M.
SUNDAY	11 th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	18 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	25 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.

JULY

SATURDAY	1 st	10.00 am	Coffee Morning & produce stall	Community Hall
SUNDAY	2 nd	10.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion Morning Worship	O.S.M. N.Pop
SUNDAY	9 th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	16 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	23 rd	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	30 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship	T.S.J.

AUGUST

SATURDAY	5 th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall.	Community Hall
SUNDAY	6 th	10.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion Morning Worship	O.S.M. N.Pop

ON LINE SERVICES

In addition to the live services and events listed above, an online Service of Worship takes place at 10 a.m. on the following Sundays : 18th June, 2nd and 16th July.

For details of how to access it please contact our Vicar Mark Ward

(revmarkward@btinternet.com) or the PCC Secretary Alison Stevens (tiptonpcc@gmail.com) who will be pleased to provide the link.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

CHURCH FETE

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 28th AUGUST

SCHOOL FIELD at NOON

Stalls Barbeque Lunches Cream Teas Grand Draw

Diary Dates - June and July

All dates correct at the time of publication and are subject to the Covid situation

June

12th June	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
19th June	7.30pm	Tipton Ladies, Community Hall	P7
24th June	10.30/11.30am	Defibrillator Training, Community Hall	P14
26th June	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
29th June	7.30pm	Community Hall AGM	P14

July

8th July	10.30am	Otter Rail and River Run, Playing Field	P7
10th July	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
22nd July	6.30pm	TIPPS AGM, Community Hall	P15
24th July	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14

August

28th August	noon	Tipton Fete, School Field	P12
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Flooding of homes in Venn Ottery



*A river down the road in Metcombe
Muddy landslide at Combe*



Flash-flooding in Tipton

